



SAINT PAUL'S NEWS

welcoming saints and sinners since 1900

July 14, 2021

“What happens here doesn’t stay here...”

“How Can You Sing...?”

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Church Family,

Appearing on 11,000 albums and reportedly sung 10 million times a year, you might think a song like that could become passe’. It was written by a real scoundrel, to put it nicely, however, maybe that is why it is so powerful. Life had not been easy, nor had he made very good choices. The writer lost his mother when he was seven, had a tough life with a boat captain as a father, started working with his father at sea at 11 and lived a life of rebellion and heartache. He didn’t live to the age to see his life’s story linked to his music and set to a play on Broadway, but others did. I wonder what they thought of his story. Surreal?

I know it’s a sensational story in ways, but I’m really not struck by the sensationalism of it. I’m struck by the simplicity of the song and what it means to me. I think most people are and they can relate to it, thus its popularity continues this day and has for two centuries now. “Amazing Grace,” and it’s hard for me to say it without the next six words, “that saved a wretch like me.” Maybe instead of scoundrel, I could have used John Newton’s own words to describe himself, although wretch, scoundrel, I think they may be close to the same thing.

As we were singing Amazing Grace during our closing hymn Sunday morning and Russ’s crescendo lifted us through that last verse, there was somewhat of a Holy moment going on for me. I thought about the mistakes in my own life, how I had been brought through and was humbled to be called Pastor of an amazing faith family. What an honor it was to baptize another child in our family, how we can gather together to share in a place that reminds us of the healing nature of God’s grace. I was in awe.

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This Week at Saint Paul’s If You Like to Plan

I don't know about millions or even thousands, however I may be approaching several hundred times that I have sung or even played that hymn, however something struck me on Sunday as we sang the second verse, *"'Twas grace, that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved..."* And while I understand the lyrics of that verse I wondered, even aloud with you, isn't it grace that taught my heart awe? Grace brings the awe of God, our grace conveyor to life for us. John Newton certainly believed that as a defiant "wretch" he became a beloved, secure and hope-filled child of God.

I love to sing that song and I love to watch and hear others sing it as well. Sometimes it is so powerful, I can barely get the familiar words out, especially as I hear other voices whom I know have been through so much and yet they can sing it, oh can they sing it. And it strikes me that we can all sing it so easily and earnestly, yet it's harder at times to live it than we want to admit. We get in our own way, someone makes us angry, someone hurts our feelings, and it's easier to talk about what they've done to us than offer the grace we've been shown ourselves.

How can we sing *"Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see..."* with such assurance if we can't or don't offer it freely to others? Or maybe, just maybe we can't fully grasp that it is offered fully to us if we but accept it. That we are grace covered and thus can let it overflow from us to all we meet.

I think we may be able to continue to sing it because we too need reminded, we too need to accept, and we too need to offer the grace that teaches our heart to be in awe of God's love for us all.

Peace,
Pastor Tim

In Our Daily Prayers...

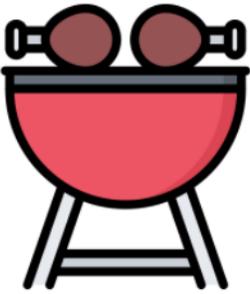
Dick Albright
Dick Bettleyon
Nancy Cochran
Cathy Dunkleberger
Family of Shawn Dunmeyer
Gail Earnest
The Erdley Family
Gladys Fawcett
Amanda Greenawalt

Greyson Greenawalt
Steve Harding
Mina Hoover
Mary Rose Knelly
Tom and Priscilla Lanks
Cindy Lloyd
Katy Mahon
John Marsala

The Mattison Family
Mike McCollum
Cindy Mohr
Raquel Prager
Jane Scurfield
Alecia Snyder
Family of Glen Van Dyke
Bill Wright
Donna and Russ Wynn, Sr.



News from Home...



At the Gill's: A Swim Party and Chicken BBQ (169 Woodridge Lane, Northumberland)

this Sunday afternoon beginning at 4 p.m., bring a dish to share, your bathing suit if you choose, maybe an extra lawn chair if you have one, and come on out for an evening of food, fun and fellowship. This event is open to all, so grab your family, call your friends and let's meet at the Gill's. There's plenty of chicken and lots of catching up to do.

Friends Who Breakfast: As your pastor, and as most pastors do, we often get asked a question that goes something like, "why don't we... (fill in the blank)." Then we may respond, "I agree, we should...", and then we finish by saying, "Are you willing to take this on and make this happen?" My heart rejoices when someone comes to me with something they have thought of and not only come up with a plan but are ready to execute the plan to make things happen.



Merle Kay Englehart called me yesterday to say, "I've been going through our list of activities, and we don't have anything during the day going on for people who don't drive at night." She was right! We don't! So, this Summer, I agreed with her it is important to have an option to gather like this. She offered to organize and help spread the word for a breakfast social. The first one will take place at the Perkins Restaurant in Lewisburg (next to Applebee's), where people are invited to gather at 9:45 a.m. for breakfast and conversation on Wednesday, July 21. All are welcome, no age requirement, no retirement requirement, maybe you're off on Wednesdays, maybe you don't drive after dark, or you just haven't found the right time or event that you feel comfortable with, well then here's an opportunity. Thank you, Merle Kay, for seeing the need and organizing this event!

See you at Perkins, Wednesday, July 21 at 9:45 a.m., Friends Who Breakfast!



Coffee Hour: Join us for a Summer Coffee Hour - with Iced Tea, Water and Lemonade, all available outside under the covered walkway immediately following worship each Sunday. We hope you will join us and hang out outside for fellowship following worship. This outdoor space and event gives new meaning to "parking lot worship" and we are excited to be bringing back more opportunities like this for you.



Community Research Project...it's on!



Here's an evening event as well:

**6 p.m., Thursday, July 29, Pier 87,
Williamsport**

Music, food, and fellowship in a place where we can gather together once again. If you are not on Facebook or can't find the event on Facebook to let us know you may be coming, you may reach out to Lisa Bernard or call the church office.

New Member Sunday: Remember that Sunday, July 25, is "New Member Sunday." If you wish to formally join as a member of Saint Paul's or have questions about membership, please reach out the Pastor Tim as soon as possible.

Faith Formation and Worship News...



Compassion Camp, VBS! Would you help spread the word?

Beginning Monday, August 2, to Friday, August 6, we will offer Vacation Bible School (VBS) here at the church. This year's VBS, Compassion Camp, will kick off with a light supper being offered each evening from 5:30 to 6 p.m. and then crafts, lessons, music, and activities from 6 to 8 for ages 3 to 11 (5th grade). Compassion Camp builds on "being loved, being kind, and being you."

Preregistration is open and can be accessed from our web site: www.spuccwm.org. If you are interested in assisting in some way, please reach out to Colleen Franciscus, Pastor Tim, or the church office (570) 568-1433. We hope you will be here to join us. Volunteers are needed from kitchen to classroom and even bakers from home would be an option to assist. It's coming soon, would you help us spread the word?

Weekly Faith Formation Gatherings

Sunday Morning's with Dave and Friends... Will return Sunday, September 12

Monday Morning Preacher... Will return Monday, September 13

Wednesdays Theology Mashup... Will return Wednesday, September 15

Want to join or are you looking for online worship or a worship replay? Like you can't get enough of Pastor Tim's message (right!)? Replay of services are always available via YouTube or Facebook. Links are on our website homepage. <https://www.spuccwm.org/> or below:

Saint Paul's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulswestmilton>

Saint Paul's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx534qz98pw4IEcpsJznLnw>



Mission and Outreach News...



Community Dinner: The next community meal is scheduled for Sunday, August 8, at 5 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning Street. This is a “drive-through” community meal pick up again. Saint Paul’s will provide desserts and possibly cole slaw. The main dish is pulled pork for sandwiches provided by Milton Lutheran Parish. Bethany United Methodist is providing baked beans. Please contact Diane Bettleyon at 570-716-4074 to supply items and/or volunteer your time to help.

This Week at Saint Paul’s...

- Wed., July 14** **Happy Birthday Amy Mahon**
Happy Birthday Nikole Eveland
- Thurs., July 15** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
- Fri., July 16** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
- Sun., July 18** 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship LIVE Online & In-Person at
 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847
- Mon., July 19** **Happy Birthday Autumn Faust**
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
- Tues., July 20** **Happy Birthday Sharon Fisher**
Happy Birthday David Reid
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open
 6 p.m. Consistory Meeting at 1125 Mahoning Street
- Wed., July 21** 9:45 a.m. Friends Who Breakfast at Perkins, Lewisburg
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church Office open

Upcoming Sunday Worship...LIVE stream and In Person @ 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton

July 18, 2021
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
“Body Work”
 Ephesians 2:11-22; March 6:30-34, 53-56
 Lector: Autumn Faust
 Flower Sponsor: Earl and Terri Fisher

July 25, 2021
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
“Paralysis vs. Empowerment”
 Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
 Lector: Dave Muffley
 Flower Sponsor: Polly Barrall

July Worship Leader: Drew Faust

July Usher Team: Lisa and Bill Bernard, Autumn or Drew Faust
 Rhonda Newton (Check In), Colleen Franciscus (Alternate)



If you like to plan... Here are some upcoming events to add to your calendar:

Sunday, July 18 – Swim Party and Chicken BBQ 4 p.m. (Gill Home)

Tuesday, July 20 – Consistory Meeting at 1125 Mahoning 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 21 – Friends Who Breakfast at Perkins Lewisburg 9:45 a.m.

Thursday, July 22 – Fresh Express Food Distribution at 433 High Street

Sunday, July 25 – New Member Sunday during Worship 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 29 – Community Research Project at Pier 87 Bar & Grill 6 to 10 p.m.

Sunday, August 1 – Communion

Sunday, August 8 – Bo, Kadence, and Riley Gill Baptisms

Sunday, August 8 – Community Dinner at 5 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning
(Drive-Through Format)

Sunday, August 22 – Back to School Picnic and Swim Party

Sunday, September 5 – Communion; Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 12 – Rally Day All Church Potluck

Monday, September 13 – Monday Morning Preacher Returns at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 15 – Family Formation Returns
(Dinner, Bible Study, Youth Events, Music)

Saturday, September 18 – Harvest Festival Parade 1 p.m. (SPUCC Float)

Sunday, September 26 – S'mores and a Movie

Saturday, October 9 – Hayride

Sunday, October 10 – Community Dinner at 5 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning
(Drive-Through Format)

Saturday, October 23 – Pumpkin Patch / Trunk and Treat

Sunday, November 7 – All Saint's Day

Sunday, December 5 – Community Dinner at 5 p.m. at 1125 Mahoning
(Drive-Through Format)

